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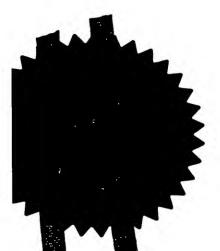
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Cardiff Road Newport . South Wales NP10 8QQ .

Your reference -

P34671-/NBR/MEA

Patent application number (The Patent Office will fill in this part)

1 8 JUL 2003

Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

Hamilton Erskine Limited 17 Moss Road, Ballygowan Newtownards, Co Down BT23 6JQ, Northern Ireland

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

United Kingdom

164130

Title of the invention

"Improvements Relating to Glass"

Name of your agent (If you have one)

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

Murgitroyd & Company

Scotland House 165-169 Scotland Street Glasgow G5 8PL

Patents ADP number (If you know it)

1198015

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Date of filing (day / month / year)

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Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' If:

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	Description Claim(s) Abstract Drawing(s)	15 6+6 Q	
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	Priority documents	2	
	Translations of priority documents	•	
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11	· <u>. </u>	I/We request the grant of a patent on t	he basis of this application.
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The present invention relates to improved ballistic and blast- and hurricane-resistant optically transparent composite materials involving glass. . 6 7 There have been many suggestions for "bullet-proof" and "blast-proof" transparent windows and the like, 9 either for civilian purposes such as for use in 10 aircraft, or for military purposes, especially 11 protection against enemy and terrorist attack. 12 However, with the developing threat from 13 international terrorism and events such as those of September 11 2001, many governments and major 14 15 organisations are re-appraising their security requirements. High velocity weapons and better 16 explosives are increasingly available to terrorists and the like. Whilst traditional 'bullet-proof' glass will still be required; there is now an increasing need for certain key installations, persons and equipment, especially in and around military and high governmental locations, to be

Improvements Relating to Glass

protected against a higher level of previously considered necessary ..3. Where pure optical transmission for a window is not ... a necessity, there are many available materials 6 having high strength and impact resistance. 7 However, where optical transparency of 'normal' windows and glazing is desired, e.g. for military 9 base houses and offices, current forms of glazing 10 are only adequate for protection against low 11 velocity bullets (e.g. from small arms), and low 12 levels of blast. Most current forms of 'bullet . 13 proof' glass use several layers of glass bonded by 14 adhesive polymer film. The energy of the projectile 15 is dissipated over increasingly large areas of To some extent the projectile can be 16 blast. deformed or fragmented and can be deviated from the 17 18 original line of attack. The energy is directed 19 towards a direction different to the previous path, 20 resulting in further dissipation of energy, e.g. as 21 shown in figure 1. 22 23 Typical design solutions involve either glass/glass 24 combinations or glass/polycarbonate (PC) 25 combination. The latter offer an advantage in that they are lighter than the former, but they often 26 have delamination problems. The effect of bonding 28 of PC to glass is also difficult as PC has a substantially higher rate of thermal expansion than glass. This causes high stress levels in the bonding interlayer during temperature changes

often leads to delamination.

1 The PC designs are often 'complex', particular as

the level of protection required increases. The

number of layers can cause problems with optical

interference and secondary image formation because

5 of the number of glass/PC interfaces. There may

also be weight or thickness limitations preventing

their use in particular applications. This is shown

8 in the following tables.

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•	_		
		•	

11	Weapon type &	Class	Design	Thick	Weight (kg/m²)	Trans- mittance
12	Calibre			ness (mm)	(kg/iii /	(%)
13	Hand Gun	BR2/C1	6 ² PC5 ² 3-12-ESG6	35	47	77-
14	9mm Luger		. •			, and the second
16		· ·				
17						4
18	Rifle	BR5/C3	8262PC6262PC6	39	71	64
19	0.223 (5.56*45)hc		8 ² PC8 ² 6-12- 6 ² PC8 ² 3-20-ESG6	82	95	?
20 21	· Rifle	BR6/C4	828262PC6262PC6	49	93	. ?
22	0.308 (7.62*51)		8 ² PC8 ² 3-12- 10 ² PC8 ² 3-20-ESG6	85	102	?
23				24	143	
24 .	Rifle 0.308	BR7/C5	628282PC8-20- 628282PC8	91	. 143	· 58
25	(7.62*51)hc					

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US5665450 discusses the introduction of glass fibres and glass ribbons into transparent composites, but,

31 as it states, the introduction of glass fibres into

an optically transparent polymer destroys the ansparency of the polymer. US5665450 considers that the introduction of glass ribbons provide a higher degree of optical clarity and lower level of distortion than glass fibres. However the photographs in US5665450 indicating the degree of optical clarity of fibre and ribbon-٠9 reinforced materials still show distortion even 10 based on photographic reproduction of relatively 11 indistinctive photographs. Figure 7 shows 12 percentage like transmission as a function of 13 temperature and wavelength. However, it can be seen 14 that the percentage transmission barely gets above 15 80% at the lowest temperature and highest wavelength 16 measured. The lowest temperature measured is at 30°C, which is also not a temperature generally 17 18 encounted in many countries on a regular basis. Ιt 19 is interesting that the percentage transmission in 20 US5665450 was not measured at more temperate or 21 freezing temperatures. Moreover, 80% optical 22 transmission is very poor in comparison with the 23 expectancy of 'normal' glass, which should be at 24 least 90% at all temperatures. It is appreciated 25 that the human eye can easily recognise or perceive 26 a less than 100% optical transmission of light through a 'transparent' materi 28 3 - 29 3 In essence, there is a requirement for an optically of

transparent composite material having about or at least 90% optical transmission over a range of temperatures, including below 0°C, and also able to

withstand high velocity ballistic projection whilst having a relatively low manufacturing cost. According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided an optically transparent composite material comprising at least one glass/resin/glass lamination, wherein the resin is a PRR material having optical fibre-reinforcement therein. The term "PRR" refers to 'polycarbonate replacement resins', a range of materials provided by Chemetall GmbH of Frankfurt, Germany, and generally defined in 13 their International Patent Application No WO 01/38087A1. The PRR materials are a range of 14 transparent cast resins that can consist of reactive 15 16 acrylate and methacrylate monomers, acrylate and 17 methacrylate oligomers, bonding agents and . 18 initiators. The content of WO 01/38087A1 defining 19. these materials is incorporated herein by way of 20 reference. 21 22 The term "PRR" also extends to similarly provided polyurethane resins, often termed "PUR". 23 24 25 A range of commonly available PRR materials are sold under the trade name Naftlolan®. 26 The Naftlolan materials are provided in a range of different .27 formulations to provide slightly different 28 A list of product data of certain properties. polyurethene Naftlolan materials are listed in Tables 2 and 3 hereinafter, by way of example only.

PRR materials have been found to have several advantages over previously used polymer glass lamination layers. Firstly, the refractive index of PRR material overlaps very closely with many types of glass. Secondly, PRR materials have been found to expand and contract at very close rates with that of glass, thus leading to minimal if ever cracking or delamination (due to internal stress) during any thermal expansion and contraction of the composite 10 material. Thirdly, PRR materials are relatively 11 very easy to use and set in transparent composite 12 materials, especially compared with processes of 13 curing previously used types of polymers and resins. 14 They are also useable in designs incorporating 15 complex curves. 16 17 Because PRR materials have a co-efficient of expansion and contraction very close to glass, these 18 19 materials are usable to provide optically 20 transparent composite materials with glass over a 21 much greater range of temperatures than, e.g. that 22 shown in US5665450. In particular, the present 23 invention is designed to provide a ballistic-24 resistant optically transparent composite material 25 which is usable at temperatures even as low as -15°C 26 to -40 °C, generally -20°C, e.g. the temperature of windows in military installations in certain countries such as Canada, as well as temperatures 29. going up to 30°C to 40°C, such as the temperature of windows in more tropical countries. To that extent, the difference in co-efficiency of glass, such as

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normal silica-based glass, and PRR materials deviates little over a wide temperature range. Table 4 hereinafter lists the refractive indices of a number of resins, including a number of the Naftolan range, indicating their close refractive index to that of glass in general. 9. In general, the refractive index of the PRR materials are sufficiently close to readily; 11... available types of glass, such as a silica-based 12 glass, that the optical transparency of the composite material of the present invention is 13 14 good as that from any current glass/glass or 15 glass/PC laminations. 16 The fibre reinforcement in the PRR layer of the 17 composite material of the present invention can be 18 19 provided by any know type of "fibre material", being 20 for instance in the form of filaments, or in the 21 form of particles such as beads, or even powders, as 22 long as such fibre material wholly or very 23 substantially has the same refractive index as glass 24 across all or most the wavelengths of optical light. 25 Such glass fibres are well known in the art, one 26 such available product being sold under the trade name Tyglas by Fothergill Engineered Fabrics. 27 The fibre reinforcement provide the PRR intermediate layer with improved strength because of their well 31 known ability to laterally transmit impact energy. Meanwhile; PRR materials also have improved utility

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as a resin to band the fibre material fillers because of their similar co-efficient of thermal expansion and adhesive strength to glass. In the present invention, the thickness of the glass 5 and PRR layers, and the density of fibre reinforcement in the PRR layer, can vary according 7. to the qualities of the final composite material 8 9 desired. Cost and physical properties are factors 10 in considering the thickness of the layers. One 11 known ratio of thickness is glass/PRR/glass of 12 6/20/4mm; this is provided by way of example only. 13 14 Indeed, a major facet of PRR material is that its strength is independent of its thickness. 15 types of resins and adhesives only have strength for 16. 1.7 a minimal thickness, as their use is to bond 18 together the layers (e.g. of glass) on each side, 19 rather than provide any inherent strength of their 20 own right. PRR has been found not only to provide 21 good bonding to glass, but also have internal 22 strength in its own right. The thickness of the PRR layer is therefore independent of the thickness of 23 the glass layers either side. 24 25 The nature of "high velocity ballistic protection" 26 can be defined in general terms as the difference 27 between a hand gun and a rifle, e.g. above a NATO 28 5.56 or 7.62mm ball. 29 30 According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a process for making an

optically transparent composite material as herein before defined, comprising the steps admixing the PRR material with the optical fibre-reinforcement, and allowing the combination to cure and set between the two layers of glass. Further information on the curing of PRR resins may be found in WO 01/38087A1. 10 Meanwhile, increasing power and sophistication of 11 explosive-technology, means that 'blast-proof' 12 optically transparent material is also desired 13 having increasing strength. In this regard, it is 14 now generally desired to provide blast-resistant 15 optically transparent material having the ability to 16 withstand a blast of 500kg TNT or equivalent at 40m. 17 18 US patent No 3953630 discloses a laminated 19 transparent assembly suitable for use as a 20 windscreen for a high speed vehicle wherein high 21 strength flexible material is embedded in a plastic 22 material, laid between two layers of glass. 23 flexible material extends beyond the transparent 24 assembly, so as to be directly conjoined with the 25 structure of the vehicle. Thus, as any blast causes 26. deformation of the transparent assembly (as part of the impact absorption), the high strength flexible material provides a direct bond between the vehicle structure bolts and the transparent assembly, hopefully thereby resisting complete separation of the two and travel of the transparent assembly into

the vehicle.

However, US3953630 only discloses the use polyvinylbutyral (PVB) as the plastic layered to provide the bonding between the glass sheets and the flexible material. In addition, manufacture of the transparent assembly in US3953630 requires an altering of the conventional laminating technique, 8. in order to provide good bonding between a number of 9 PVB sheets, and the glass. This requires pre-,10 heating treatment, insertion of the full assembly 11 including glass sheets in a closed bag to evacuate 12 all air, followed by heating in a autoclave with 13 high pressure. This method of manufacture has not 14 lent itself to cost-efficient production for a 15 number of transparent assemblies, other than for the 16 very special uses such as our aircraft windscreens 17 as mentioned. 18 19 Moreover, PVB in particular is a material only 20 designed to provide good bonding between glass 21 It is typically only 1-2mm thick. Further 22 thickness of layer is not desired, as PVB has little 23 internal strength in its own right. 24 In a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a laminated optically transparent assembly

In a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a laminated optically transparent assembly comprising at least one glass/resin/glass lamination, and having one or more high tensile strength flexible material reinforcement pieces extending laterally from the resin layer to provide increased attachment of the assembly to a surround, wherein the resin is a PRR material:

PRR materials are those as defined herein above. well as the greater similarity of refractive index: and co-efficient of thermal expansion of PRR material to glass, the PRR-flexible material and PRR-glass bonding has been found to be superior to that of prior materials such as PVB. Meanwhile, the assembly of the present invention still provides the degree of flexibility desired for 11: a blast-resistant window, with the reinforced 12 attachment of the window to the surround, such as the window rebate of frame. 14 The high tensile strength flexible material may be 15 16 similar to that disclosed in US3953630, i.e. woven 17 fabric or woven glass fibre material or polyester 18 fibre material. One such product is Kevlar®. 19 20 Preferably, the flexible material extends wholly or 21 substantially around opposites sides of the complete 22 transparent assembly, to provide flexibility of 23 attachment to the surround. 24 As for the ballistic-resistant material described 26... hereinabove, the thickness of the glass and resin layers of the blast-resistant assembly can follow those well known in the art. One suitable dimension for the glass/resin/glass in 4m glass, 4mm PRR and 3mm glass.

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The thickness of the PRR layer can indeed be up 40-50mm thick, as PRR has inherent strength independent of thickness as mentioned above. To that extent, the PRR material can be as thick and therefore as strong as desired, as all the strength from a blast is taken by the resin (whilst any glass shatters). The ability to provide a PRR layer of any thickness 10 provides a further benefit. 11 12 Thus, according to a forth aspect of the present 13 invention, there is provided a blast-resistant 14 composite material comprising at least one layer of 15 PRR material having at least one reinforcement piece 16 extending wholly or substantially across the PRR 17 layer. 1.8 19 Preferably, the reinforcement piece is a series of 20 strips of bars or other reinforcement means, more 21 preferably forming a grid or grid-like structure 22 wholly or substantially across the composite 23 material. 24 25 The PRR material is that as defined hereinabove. 26. The reinforcement piece can be one or more of woven 27 rovin, webbing, webbing material or even metal 28 material. The use of a metallic grid provides the 41 14 . 29 / 24 same effect as a "muntin" system which uses metallic reinforcement grid alongside a glazing panel, but not actually therein. The present invention therefore achieves the same effect and strength as

muntin system, but as a one piece assembly, thereby significantly reducing assembly and installation. The blast-resistance is achieved because the PRR layer can be any thickness desired, e.g. up to 40-50mm, which is able to accommodate reinforcement pieces, whereas previous resins were not able to achieve such thickness, and thereby accommodate reinforcement therein. The benefit of achieving reinforcement within the 11 PRR material is that each 'section' created by the 12 13 reinforcement piece or pieces, e.g. each small 14 section within the grid, can be regarded as having 15 its own frame, as thus regarded as a separate section in terms of analysis against blast. As is 16 well known in the art, the blast-resistance of a 17 small section is greater than that of a large 18 19 By dividing the composite panel into a section. 20 number of small sections, significant blast-21 resistance is achieved. . 22 23 It is noted that the optical transparency of blastresistant panels using the muntin system is not as 24 25 important as that described for other aspects of the present invention, so that the comparative refractive index is not as important as that as described above in relation to other aspects of the Complete State of present invention.

It will be recognised by these skilled in the art the composite materials and assemblies could also be

used to provide hurricane or the like resistance, and thus the present invention is extended thereto. Embodiments of the present invention will now bedescribed by way of example only and with reference . to the accompanying drawings in which: 6 7 Figure 1 is schematic cross-sectional view of the . 8 impact of a projectile against a current multi-glas 9 laminated window pane; 10 11 Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view of a optically 12 transparent composite material according to one 13 embodiment of the present invention; 14 15 Figure 3 is a laminated optically transparent 16 assembly according to a second embodiment of the. 17 present invention. 18 As previously mentioned, figure 1 shows how the 19 20 energy of a projectile is dissipated over 21 increasingly large areas of glass of a known glass 22 PC lamination pane, leading to a large area of glass 23 shattered from the left hand side. 24 25 Figure 2 shows a optically transparent composite material 2 comprising a glass/resin/glass 26 lamination. Within the PRR resin layer 4 are a series of traditional fibre glass woven rovings 6. 29 The state of the second state of To produce the material, the rovings 6 were secured between two panes of glass 8, and the PRR resin 4

was injected into the cavity. The resin 4 flows up

charliffered the first

the inside of the glass 8 and disperses through the woven roving 6, wetting the fibres and forming an excellent bond. Figure 3 shows a blast-resistant assembly 10 mounted to a wall 12. Between the two panes of glass 14, a 2 inch wide unidirectional glass fibre woven roving 16 was bonded into the same PRR resin 18 as mentioned above. The complete assembly 10 was 10 located in the rebate of a window frame 20, and the 11 roving reinforcement material 16 fixed to the frame 12 20 by adhesive, and also by means of a lateral bolt 13 22. 14 15 The assembly 10 was tested in a Hannsfield 20k-w 16 tensometer. Loads in access of 8000N were applied 17 before the fibre woven 16 broke. Considerably 18 greater loads could be achieved with the use of 19 thicker fibres or different types of fibres. 20 21 The present invention provides ballistic-resistant 22 and blast-resistant assemblies providing protection 23 against much higher levels of protection from high 24 velocity weapons and explosives than currently known 25 with current forms of glazing. Production of the 26 assemblies is also comparatively simple and cost effective compared to previous types of similar

assemblies, which used less suitable polymers and

aplastic material. The war following and specific property of the

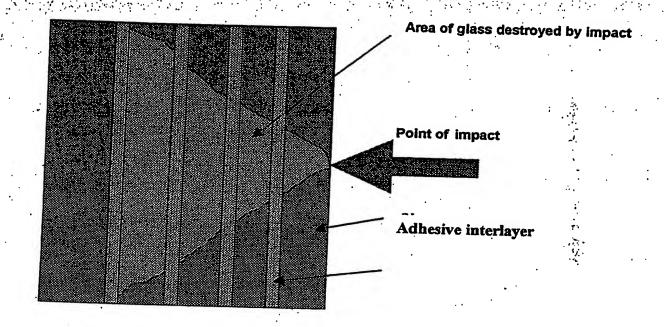


Fig 1

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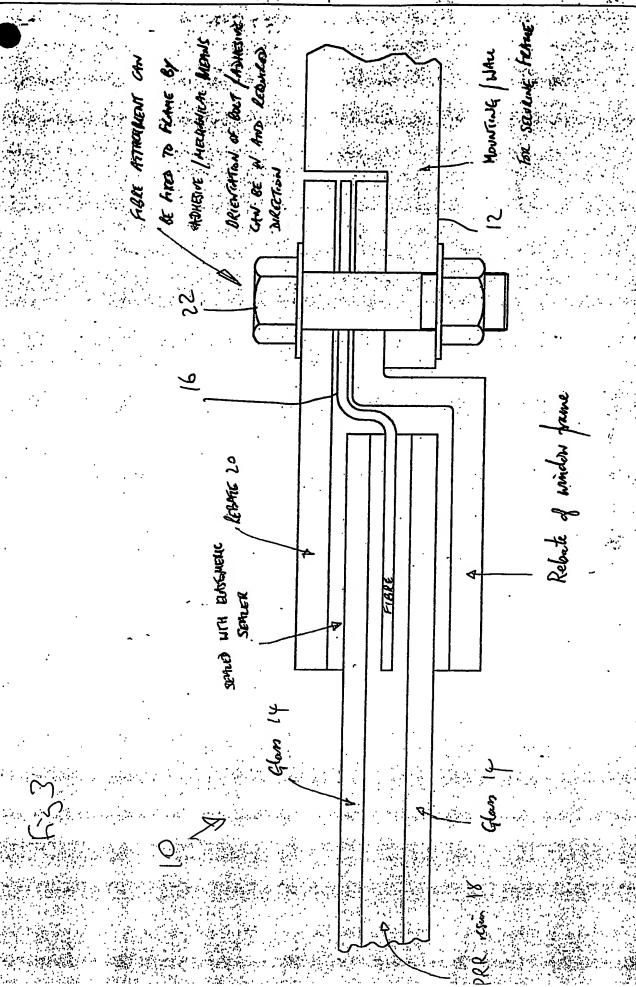
G5 2

Slass

PRR resin

Values

Valu



Polyurethan Composite Materials

Standard	DIN 53 504 DIN 53 504 DIN 53 504 DIN 53 504 DIN 53 504	DIN 63 508	
Nertholan VP-PA 0511 / VP-PB 2910	2.1 0.7 1.9 1.9	188	25
Neftolan VP-PA 2601 / VP-PB 2110	5 12 18 32 32	8	10
Neffolan VP-PA 1011 / VP-PB 2110	18 6 7 7 10 160	03	8
Nañolan VP-PA 0911 / VP-PB 2110 1	19 15 14 15.5 15.0	8	30:
Naffolan PU-A 206 / PU-B 606 0	16 1.2 1.7 2.5 360	23	7.5
Naffolan PU-A 700 A	16 8 8 180		- 18
	Lus of elasticity)		14 mm glass/ glass
ayer	Tensile strength [Mpa]. 25% module [Mpa]. 50% module [Mpa]. 100% module [Mpa]. Tensile modulus Tensile yield point. Elongation at break [%]. Compressive strength. Compressive modulus. Compressive modulus. Flexural strength. Flexural strength. Flexural strength. Flexural strength. Flexural strength. Flexural strength.	treingth nodulus : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :	39 4/2
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Product Data of Polyurethan Composite Materials

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	Naffolan VP-PA	DIII VE-FB 2010							٠.															380	85	230		1.01	1.05	1.02	2	. 00	3 5			40	ß									
	Naffolan VP-PA	No. 12 Chillian							•															435	88	245		1.02	1.05	1.8	3	S	24	4		8	88									
H	Namolan VP-PA 011 / VP-PB 2410 2			nd bo	d bail			• •	:							e tested solvents			passed without failur					515	88	200		7.02	1.05	1.03	4	30	24		1	8	06									
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700 Naftolan Ptl-A 208				vulare structure, the m	culare structure, the m				<u> </u>	•				o not reciptort acalant Allania	Colora III ayali isi Awa	st organic solvents der		A 4000 mile district	I 1700 WILL GILIERETT	sion datas on the next sheets			920	360	8	200		10.7	1.00	3.	7	15	48	9		. 52	(3,									
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							Critical Oxygen Index (COI) (minimum oxygen fraction in	h will support steady	Plastics with COI >0.21														Component A	9	Component B	Mixine	1	Component B limit	Mixture Ilouid					C to 23 °C) [d]	red resin) DIN	ured resin)		W/(m*K)]	-th. 00/1-1 m/	mply 5/6/4mm) 1%	mbly 6/15/4mm) [%]	mbly 6/20/4mm) [%]				
Physical Properties		bility		July	•	mission	xygen Index (COI) (miln	an oxygen-nitrogen mixture which will support steady	state combustion of the plastic. Plastics with COI >0.21	are self extinguishing)		Chemical Resistance			Organic solverits		Weatherability/degradation	Ageing - temp cycling test	uojjo	Adsorption of water		al Data	Viscosity (23°C) [mPa's]	Viscosity (23°C) (mpare)	Viscosily (23°C) [mPa¹s]		Specific weight (23°C) [g/cm³]	Specific weight (23°C) [q/cm³]	Specific weight (23°C) [q/cm³]	Volume Shrinkind [%]		Processing time (23°C) [min]	Curing time(23°C) [h]	Sturiage time before, delivery (18°C to 23°C) [d]	Shore A hardness after 1 day (cured resln) DIN	Shore A hardness after 7 days (cured resin)		thermal coductivity (DIN 52612) [W/(m*K)	COIN G7507) (Access	dansimilarine (Div.o/24/) (assembly 5/8/4mm) %	transmittance (UIN 6/507) (assembly 6/15/4mm) [%]	ransmittance (UIN 6/507) (assembly 6/20/4mm) [%]				
Physica		Flammability	Melting noint	Rolling point		Ollione citilission		an oxyge	state con	are self e		Chemica	Acids	Alkalis	Organics		Weather	Ageing -	UV absorption	Adsorption		Additional Data	Viscosity	Viscosity	Viscosily		Specific w	Specificw	Specific w	Volume S		Processin	Curing tim	oronage III	Shore A h	Shore A.h.		thermal co	ranémiffa	מוווומ	Tansmua	Vansmita				

ese values are forguidance only and do not represent a specification.

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Table 4

Refractive Index liquid / cured Resins (at 20°C)

Resin UV 11	n _{D20} liquid	n _{D20} cured
	1,4362	nipzy cared
UV 22 UV 33	1,4417	1,4813
	1,4396	1,4013
ICE-Gießharz EP 1309-103 UV 203	1,4434	-
S 700 M	1,4370	1,4713
S 696 M	1,4299	-
Naftolan VP-PA 0511	1,4272	-
Naftolan VP-PA 1011	1,4542	
Naftolan PU-A 206	1,4568	1,4844 *
Naftolan VP-PB 2110	1,4540	-
Naftolan PU-B 606	1,4169	, -
Naftolan VP-PA 2601	1,4777	-
Naftolan PU-A 700	1,4553	
Vaftolan PU-B 304	-	-
	1,4739	-

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